Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, I move that "*this Council recommenas to the Government that the present staff of the Ernakulam General Hospital be strengthend by two more Sub-Assistant Surgeons.*"

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I beg to second it, Sir.

Deputy President.—The resolution before the House is that "*this Council recommends to the Government that the present staff of the Ernakulam General Hospital be strengthened by two more Sub-Assistant Surgeons*".

Resolution put and agreed to.

District Registrars.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Resolution No. 92. "*This Council recommends to the Government that there shall be (at the least) only two grades of District Registrars or, if as proposed, let the number be equally distributed among the four grades*".

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I second it.

Mr T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—A few words in explanation of this. The Registration Department is quasi-judicial in its nature. As such the revenue derived from it has to be spent mainly on its maintenance and up-keep. This is an accepted principle in all civilised countries. Cent per cent margin is allowed for expenditure against gross receipts. Should, however, the Department show a large surplus every year, it has to be presumed that the system under which it is worked is faulty. Either the tax is heavy on the public or the staff is underманned or low-paid. To remove, therefore, the defects, either of the following changes may be brought about, *viz.*, (1) lowering the rate of fees leviable on documents or (2) increasing the pay and the strength of the establishment. Unlike other Departments, such as Land Revenue and Excise, the Registration Department cannot be counted as a channel of income. The percentage of expenditure to gross receipts for the year 1103 comes to 46 and odd only, leaving a surplus of over Rs. 80,000, while, in the Madras Presidency, the expenditure goes up to 80 per cent for the past six years.

That the remuneration allowed to District Registrars and their establishments is not commensurate with their onerous and responsible duties goes without saying.

The Special Finance Committee have classified the District Registrars into four grades instead of the existing six grades as shown below:—

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Present Scale (including Cranganur).	Proposed scale by the Committee (including Cranganur).
1 on Rs. 125	1 on Rs. 125-5-150
1 on Rs. 100	2 on Rs. 100-5-125
3 on Rs. 90	6 on Rs. 80-4-100
3 on Rs. 80	15 on Rs. 60-4- 80
6 on Rs. 70	
11 on Rs. 60	

Note.—The post of one Registrar has been proposed to be abolished.

The defect in both of these systems is that the number of appointments in the higher grades is out of proportion to the number in the lower grades. The lower grades being overcrowded, the scope for promotion is very limited. This is certainly an undesirable state of things inasmuch as in the list of officers who have had no promotion for the past seven to ten years (particulars of which were called for by Mr. K. T. Mathew, M. L. C., last year), it may be seen that fifty per cent of the District Registrars in the last grade are included. For promotion to a higher grade and for seniority in a grade, vacancies should arise by the retirements of senior officers, some of whom may perhaps be juniors in age. This defect, the Special Finance Committee have not tried to remedy, seeing that a comparatively large number, *viz.*, 15, is provided in the last grade. To remove this defect in the system, it is advisable to equalise the number in all the grades.

The Committee aim at equalisation of work among the different offices. They admit that 2,000 to 3,000 Registrations is the nominal work of the Registrar. No grounds have been urged why such officers should be presided over by Registrars of four different grades of varying scales of pay.

The pay of the District Registrar being personal, there is at present no fixed rule as to the posting of the different grades of Registrars to the heavily worked or lightly worked stations according to the pay they draw. In fact, a first grade Registrar does duty in a lightly worked office and a last grade officer is posted to the heavily worked office.

District Registrars are Heads of offices exercising quasi-judicial functions. Their appointment is vested in His Highness the Maharaja. Barring Heads of Departments and their assistants, their status is on a par with the other Heads of offices, such as Devaswam Inspectors, Salt Inspectors, Forest Rangers, Sanitary Inspectors, etc., whose minimum pay does not fall below Rs. 80. Even the pay of the Managers of the Heads of Departments does not fall below Rs. 80 and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

as such, the starting pay proposed by the Committee for Registrars is very low. The Committee have standardised the pay of Heads of Departments according to their importance. There is no reason why a similar form be extended in the case of Heads of offices. Heads of offices, such as Munsiffs, Tahsildars, Magistrates, Salt Inspectors, Forest Rangers, Sanitary Inspectors, etc., have each but one grade. But when we come to the District Registrars, we have four grades. The rationale for this invidious distinction is not clear.

The District Registrars have additional duties to be discharged in their capacity as Notaries Public under the Negotiable Instruments Regulation and as Assistant Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the Companies' Regulation. No additional remuneration is allowed to them for the additional work. Though the Companies' Regulation provides for the payment to Assistant Registrars in the shape of pay or commission, no rule has been made to put the same into practice.

Clerks.—The Committee have differentiated them from the generality of clerks in other Departments, on the ground that their work mainly consists of copying. Of course, copying is only one of the several items they have to do. They are required to attend to reading and comparison work. The ordinary copyists of the Civil and Criminal Courts are not required to attend to this work. There, the Committee have provided readers and examiners on a higher grade of pay. The copying of documents in the Registration volumes has to be attended to with exceptional care. The slightest error would lead to serious results and frustrate the very object of Registration. Their brother officers in British India are treated as clerks in other Departments, and their pay has been made on a par with them, namely, Rs. 35 to 60.

Every clerk in a Registry Office, in order that he may be useful to the Head clerk and the Registrar, should be well conversant with the Standing Orders, C. S. Regulations, Cochin Account Code, Registration and Stamp Manuals, Negotiable Instrument Regulation and Companies' Regulation. In the absence of the Head clerk, he has to discharge the duties of the latter. When Registrations are heavy, he works extra hours to cope with the work. If only mere copying work is expected of him, why should he be a passed hand? Unless he be a passed hand, efficiency is at stake. Thus there is no reason why clerks of this Department should be brought below the level of clerks in other Departments. So this is to reduce the grade into two or to reduce the work.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I support it.

Resolution put and agreed to.

Huzur Clerks.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I gave a resolution about the Secretariat clerks. I move that "*This Council recommends that Huzur clerks do start on Rs. 40, instead of Rs. 25.*" In spite of Rs. 25 to 60, let it be made to Rs. 40 to 60, as it used to be. Just to restore the old condition, and nothing more.

Deputy President.—No one to second?

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—I second it, Sir.

Deputy President.—So, the resolution before the House is that the Huzur clerks be started on Rs. 40 to 60, as it used to be, instead of Rs. 25 to 60.

Resolution put and agreed to.

Clerks in the District Magistrate's Office.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—This is the motion: "*This Council recommends to the Government that a grade clerkship on Rs.60-80 may be allowed to the office of the District Magistrate.*" There is a Head clerk and his pay is Rs. 80 to 100. Below him there is a clerk who is in charge of the accounts. His pay, as per report, is only Rs. 40 to 60. I move that a post on Rs. 60 to 80 be created in the District Magistrate's office.

Deputy President.—What is your resolution, then?

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.— *This Council recommends that a clerk be appointed on Rs. 60 to 80 under the Head clerk in the District Magistrate's office.*"

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I second it.

Resolution put and agreed to.

Teachers.

Mrs. G. Pavitran.—"*This Council resolves that the scheme of salary as appended herewith be adopted for the teachers of this State*".

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly